

European Geoparks Week 2008
Report

Name of Geopark: **Marble Arch Caves European Geopark**
Dates of geoparks week: **13/07/08 – 20/07/08**
Contact person: **Chris Reid....**

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week 5.....
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events 4.....
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters 2000.
- total number of visitors/participants 321..

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008:

European Geopark Week took place this year from 13th – 20th of July. This is the first week of the traditional holiday fortnight in N. Ireland and is one of the busiest times in the tourist season. This enabled a greater number of people to be targeted by the events. For the first time this year we also ran events in conjunction with Cavan County Council in the area of our proposed expansion.

Event 1: 13/7/08- Bus tour of the Marble Arch Caves European Geopark sites: This guided tour of the site in the proposed expansion area within Co Cavan proved very popular and thirty people came along and enjoyed the day which finished with a tour of the Marble Arch Caves themselves.

Event 2: 16/07/08- Fossil Day at Marble Arch Caves(MAC): This very popular event seen 187 people look around the fossil display and take part in the fossil making fun. MAC staff explained the local fossils to people and helped them make copies of fossils using plaster and our fossil moulds.

Event 3: 17/07/08- Geopark Safari: This land rover tour of Cuilcagh Mountain takes a look at important geological and ecological sites including Cuilcagh Mountain blanket bog which is a special area of conservation. Restoration and conservation work is explained and many people who would not normally visit this wild landscape get a chance to enjoy its wild beauty.

Event 4: 19/07/08- Burren Forest Walks: This event took place in the fascinating historic site in which human habitation can be traced back over 4000 years. A guided walk by a local historian who has worked extensively on the site was accompanied with a puppet show and traditional Irish story telling.

Event 5: 20/07/08- Geopark Nature Walk: Lough Navar. Fermanagh District Council's Environmental Officer led this walk around the large forest area which includes some of the best biodiversity and geodiversity in the Geopark.

3. Photos:

